

## ***Finance Committee Meeting Minutes***

### ***October 10, 2006***

Those Present: Al DeVito – Chair, Sharon Estrella, Skip Manter, Richard Knabel.  
Guests: Bruce Stone - Town Accountant and Jim Osmundsen (filming)

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded and approved with all in favor and none opposed.

Bruce Stone passed out a school enrollment census comparison sheet. West Tisbury's student enrollment at the regional high school is down from 169 students last year to 156 students this year. The overall high school enrollment numbers are down by 20. He concluded that the trend is towards a decreased student enrollment in general and pointed out that these figures should be considered when doing the budget.

Bruce also reported that Free Cash should be certified by the end of next week at approximately \$400,000, which is less than last year.

The final revision of the letter to the Department of Education was reviewed. A motion was made to approve this third draft. The motion was seconded and approved with 3 in favor, none opposed and one abstention.

The Superintendent's budget proposals were discussed. Dr. Weiss proposed an 8.7 % increase in the Superintendent's budget this year, which would be an increase of \$238,000 over last year. Al explained some of the details of the budget, and the items Dr. Weiss would like to add. Dr. Weiss would like to add a facilities manager. This would be a person who would manage all the school buildings and maintenance. The salary for this person would be \$60,000-65,000, with benefits the actual cost would be approx. \$90,000/year. He would like to start an honors algebra program for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students which would cost about \$19,400. There would be increased costs due to insurance and salary lines. Other increases are due to: moving the Director of ESL from half to four-fifths time, paying for the Autism Counselor as the grant money for that position has run out, paying the Early Childhood Director over the summer and an increase in pay for the Business Administrator due to her obtaining a license.

There was some discussion of the increased costs. It was decided that a letter would go to the Superintendent's office reiterating the Finance Committee's request for level funding.

A motion was made to authorize the chair to send a letter to the Superintendent's Office stating that the West Tisbury Finance Committee has reviewed the budget increases proposals and that their original level-funding letter still stands. The motion was seconded and passed with 4 in favor and none opposed.

The Finance Committee will meet on October 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 to review the Special Town Meeting warrant.

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 to interview Susan Child and Nancy Rogers for the position of Administrative Assistant to the Finance Committee.

Al reviewed a list of upcoming meetings that would be of interest to the Finance Committee.

**New Business**

The taping of the FinCom's meetings was discussed. Jonathan Revere used to record the meetings for free. Richard Knabel has been paying for Mr. Osmundsen to tape the recent meetings. This was a surprise to Skip. There was some discussion as to how this will be done in the future. It was decided that taping should be budgeted for and that Skip would like to put it on the warrant for a vote.

It is time to think about scheduling the various departments for their budget meetings with the FinCom.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie Eldridge, Administrative Clerk